

In re Appln. of Kump et al.
Application No. 09/379,051

IN THE CLAIMS:

10. (Amended) A sealed lead-acid cell subject to grid growth during service comprising

a container,

a cover sealed to said container and having an inner and an outer surface and terminal openings,

a positive and negative terminal extending above the height of the cover, said terminals being sealed to the cover,

an expandable cover area surrounding at least said terminal opening for said positive terminal, said expandable cover area expanding as grid growth occurs.

11. (Amended) The sealed lead-acid cell of claim 10 wherein said expandable cover area is molded into said cover.

12. (Amended) The sealed lead-acid cell of claim 10 wherein said expandable cover area may be outwardly distended as grid growth occurs while maintaining the integrity of the seal between said at least one terminal and the cover .

13. (Amended) The sealed lead-acid cell of 10 wherein the expandable cover area includes a first region positioned substantially about the periphery of said at least one terminal, and a second region positioned substantially concentrically and radially outward said first region.

14. (Amended) The sealed lead-acid cell of claim 13 wherein said first region is substantially planar thereby facilitating sealing between the terminal and the cover.

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15. (Amended) The sealed lead-acid cell of claim 13 wherein said second region, in cross-section, assumes a sinusoidal configuration in its assembled position prior to use in service.

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16. (Amended) The sealed lead-acid cell of claim 10 wherein said expandable cover area, in cross-section, assumes a sinusoidal configuration in its assembled position prior to use in service.

17. (Amended) The sealed lead-acid cell of claim 10 expandable cover area extends substantially 360° about said at least one terminal.

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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 201804

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

KUMP et al.

Art Unit: 1745

Application No. 09/379,051

Examiner: C. Chaney

Filed: August 23, 1999

For: **SEALED LEAD-ACID CELLS AND
BATTERIES HAVING AN
EXPANDABLE COVER**

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS 10-17

10. (Amended) A sealed lead-acid cell subject to grid growth during service comprising

- a container,
- a cover sealed to said container and having an inner and an outer surface and terminal openings,
- a positive and negative terminal extending above the height of the cover, said terminals being sealed to the cover,
- an expandable cover area surrounding at least said terminal opening for said positive terminal, [whereby] said expandable cover area expanding [may flex] as grid growth occurs.

11. (Amended) The sealed lead-acid cell [battery] of claim 10 wherein said expandable cover area is molded into said cover.

12. (Amended) The sealed lead-acid cell [battery] of claim 10 wherein said expandable cover area may be outwardly distended as grid growth occurs while

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maintaining the integrity of [without adversely affecting] the seal between said at least one terminal and the cover .

13. (Amended) The sealed lead-acid cell [battery] of 10 wherein the expandable cover area includes a first region positioned substantially about the periphery of said at least one terminal, and a second region positioned substantially concentrically and radially outward said first region.

14. (Amended) The sealed lead-acid cell [battery] of claim 13 wherein said first region is substantially planar thereby facilitating sealing between the terminal and the cover.

15. (Amended) The sealed lead-acid cell [battery] of claim 13 wherein said second region, in cross-section, assumes a sinusoidal configuration in its assembled position prior to use in service.

16. (Amended) The sealed lead-acid cell [battery] of claim 10 wherein said expandable cover area, in cross-section, assumes a sinusoidal configuration in its assembled position prior to use in service.

17. (Amended) The sealed lead-acid cell [battery] of claim 10 expandable cover area extends substantially 360° about said at least one terminal.

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